

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 7-27 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 7-12 are amended. claims 2 and 4-6 are canceled, and claims 13-27 are added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The indication that claims 5 and 8-12 contain allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. By this Amendment, the allowable features of claim 5 have been incorporated into claim 1. In addition, the allowable features of claim 8 have been incorporated into new independent claim 17.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 USC §102(b) over Milocco (U.S. Patent No. 5,264,043). By this Amendment, claims 2 and 4 are canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot with respect to those claims. With respect to the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the allowable features of claim 5 have been incorporated into claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now allowable over Milocco. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 13-27 are added to the application. New claims 13-16 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the reasons discussed above, and for the additional features that they recite.

New claim 17 is an independent claim which incorporates the allowable features of the previously pending version of claim 8. Claims 18-21 depend from new claim 17.

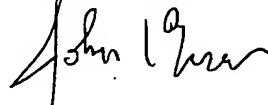
New claim 22 is a new independent claim, and claims 23-27 depend from claim 22. It is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable over the references of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: June 22, 2006

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